

Kirkby Lonsdale
URBAN DISTRICT.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1920.

Kirkby Lonsdale:

J. GRANGER & SON, MAIN STREET.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF KIRKBY LONSDALE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1920, compiled in accordance with your instructions and those of the Ministry of Health.

The advent of a new Census to be taken this year will greatly facilitate the correct compilation of Statistics and Ratios.

My thanks are extended to your Officials who have rendered me excellent assistance on all occasions, as also to the members of the Medical Profession, whose willing co-operation has been a most valuable asset towards a constructive policy of preventive medicine.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 21st, 1921.

Urban District of Kirkby Lonsdale.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ended December 31st, 1920.

Area, Land and Inland Water (Acres)	3,254
Population (Census 1911)	1,524
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	1,375
Population (Local Estimate)	1,500
Inhabited Houses.. ..	350
Average Population per house.....	4.28

Kirkby Lonsdale is a small town, beautifully situated in the South East corner of Westmorland, on the West Bank of the River Lune. It is sheltered by high hills on the East and West formed of limestone, which rock underlies the whole of the district, having gravel superimposed, covered with a rich loamy soil. The climate is mild. Agriculture is the only industry, but the district is also a residential one.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births						Deaths			Infant Deaths					
Crude	Corrected	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Crude	Corrected	Rate per 1000 population	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Total.	
		Males	Females	Males	Females				Number	Rate per 1000 births	Number	Rate per 1000 births	Number	Rate per 1000 births
23	23	11	11	0	1	11	16	11.6	0	0	0	0	0	0

COMPARATIVE RATES.

District	Birth.	Death.	Infant Death.
Kirkby Lonsdale	16.7	11.6	0
Westmorland ...	21.6	13.9	66
England and Wales	25.4	12.4	80

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Cancer	Organic Heart Disease	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Puerperal Fever	Other Defined Diseases	Causes Ill- defined	Total
2	2	1	1	1	8	1	16

SPECIAL DEATH RATE

(Per 1,000 Population).

Influenza	Tuberculous Diseases	Cancer	Pneumonia	Puerperal Fever
0	0	1.4	0.7	0.7

Still Births notified 0.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is indicated by the following facts :—

Average daily population in Institutions (Kendal Union), 163.

Annual population receiving Outdoor Relief in Kirkby Lonsdale, 15.

The Westmorland County Hospital and the Lancaster Infirmary supply the necessary accommodation required for Hospital treatment.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF DISTRICT.

WATER.—The Water Supply is derived from a reservoir at Fleet, two miles distant. It is good in quality and abundant in quantity, and affords a constant supply. The water has about 5 degrees of hardness, is not liable to pollution, and has no plumbo-solvent action.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—There is little or no pollution, and the County Council Inspector has made no complaints.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—This is quite satisfactory, and is under the Local Authority. There are Disposal Works, consisting of nine tanks, and ærobic filters, and these are quite sufficient to meet all the requirements.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The Accommodation is as follows :—

Water Closets.....	344
Privies	85
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Total.....	429

The Privies are in connection with Farms and Houses outside the sewerage area.

There were 4 Conversions during the year.

SCAVENGING.—This is undertaken by the Local Authority, and is efficient. It is collected in carts, and deposited on a tip outside the town. Disinfection is carried out after clearance is made.

There are 156 Ashbins emptied weekly in use, and the Ashpits are chiefly in connection with outlying Farms and Buildings. There are very few in the town.

There have been no Conversions during the year.

A public inquiry was held in November by the Ministry of Health as to the purchase of land suitable for a refuse tip. This was sanctioned.

INSPECTION is continuously carried out, and defects consist chiefly of dampness, choked gullies, and defective spouts. They are usually very willingly remedied. No Statutory Notices have been issued, but 12 Informal ones.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATION CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging Houses.....	1
Slaughter Houses	3
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Total.....	4

No action has been needed.

There are no underground sleeping rooms.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary conditions and water supplies are good. There have been no closures for Infectious Disease.

Active co-operation exists between the School Medical Officer and the Medical Officer of Health.

FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—This is good in quality and sufficient in quantity. The arrangements for distribution are satisfactory.

Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops is regularly carried out.

No action has been taken with regard to Tuberculous Milk.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917, are under the control of the Police, as also the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. No action has been necessary.

MILK (MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S) ORDER, 1918.—This is administered by the County Medical Officer of Health.

(b) MEAT.—There is no public slaughter house. Surprise visits to the Slaughter House for the purpose of inspection are made from time to time. There is always free access, and any question of diseased meat is immediately communicated to the Inspector by the Butchers themselves. No meat has been condemned for Tuberculosis.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	In 1914.	In Jan., 1920.	In Dec., 1920.
Registered	Nil	Nil	Nil
Licensed.....	3	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.....	3	3	3

(c) OTHER FOODS.—No unsound food has been discovered. The sanitary condition of premises where food is prepared, stored, or exposed for sale has been good, and no action required to be taken respecting them.

Bakehouses and Slaughter Houses have been well kept. There were no cases of food poisoning.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

	Number.	Inspections.	Defects.
Factories.....	2	2	Nil
Workshops	50	50	2
Workplaces.....	2	2	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	54	54	2

The defects related to cleanliness, and were immediately remedied.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There have been a few cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria; three Diphtheria cases appeared to arise in connection with a public dance.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is in general use.

There was no " Return Cases " of infectious disease.

No case of Encephalitis Lethargica occurred.

Bacteriological aids have been utilized in all suitable cases.

No Vaccinations were performed under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

School intimations have been freely utilised.

There has been no Influenza epidemic, but an emergency committee was appointed with full powers to incur any necessary expenses in connection with an outbreak. Leaflets on the subject of Influenza were distributed to every house. There have been no cases of locally contracted Anthrax or Rabies.

No facilities exist for the cleansing of verminous persons. One case only of Tuberculosis occurred—notification has been efficient.

TABLE OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	Cases.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	5	5
Diphtheria	4	4
Erysipelas	1	Nil
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	1	Nil
Pneumonia (Primary)	1	Nil
Puerperal Fever	1	Nil
	—	—
Total.....	13	9

The Maternity and Child Welfare of the District is in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

I. STAFF.—This consists of one Inspector, who is also engaged in other duties by the Council.

2. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The small house used as an Isolation Hospital has been closed. All cases are now sent to the Isolation Hospital, at Kendal.

There is no Hospital Accommodation for Small-pox, but the Council have under consideration an arrangement with the Kendal Corporation, for the purpose.

3. LOCAL ACTS, ETC.—The following Acts are in operation :—

Sanitary Clauses of the Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890.

Libraries Act.

Bye-Laws are in force for :—

Private Scavenging.

Prevention of Nuisances.

New Streets and Buildings.

Markets and Fairs.

The combined Districts of Westmorland have established local Laboratories at Kendal, for Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations.

Examinations for Kirkby Lonsdale consisted of :—

Diphtheria	25
Tubercle	1
Malaria	1
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Total	27

HOUSING.

Total Houses	350
Working Class Houses	175
New Houses for Working Classes Erected or in course of Erection	Nil
Population (estimated)	1500

There have been no important changes, nor are any anticipated in the near future.

Extent of shortage of Houses, 8.

The Council have already formulated a scheme for the erection of these, but it is held in abeyance for the present.

OVERCROWDING.

There is no serious overcrowding; any that exists arises from the size of families. No measures have been taken in connection with this during the year.

FITNESS.

The general standard is good. The chief defects found have been due to dampness, lack of ventilation, and choked drains. These have been dealt with by 12 Informal Notices, and owners are always willing to co-operate. No difficulties have arisen regarding water supplies, closet accommodation or refuse removal.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There are no extensive areas that can be included under this heading, and no action has been taken, nor any complaints made during the year.

BYE-LAWS.

The existing Bye-Laws work well, and there is no need for new ones or the revision of the existing ones.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended December 31st, 1920.

I.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated Population	1500
(2) Infantile Mortality	Nil
(3) General Death Rate	11.6

(4) Death Rate from Tuberculosis	Nil
(5) Number of Dwelling-houses of all classes.....	350
(6) Number of Working Class Dwelling-houses.....	175
(7) Number of New Working Class Houses erected	Nil

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	about 200
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of the District) Regulations, 1910 (records complete)	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	12

II.—Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken by the Local Authority or their officers	12
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sec. 28, of the Housing Town Planning Act, etc., 1919.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intentions to close | Nil |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts. | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied— | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (c) Proceedings under Sec. 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning Etc. Acts, 1909. | |
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit..... | Nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) Part 1, or (b) Part 2, of the Act, 1890	Nil
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Number of houses not complying with the Building Byelaws erected with the consent of the Local Authority under Sec. 25, Housing Town Planning Etc. Act, 1919	Nil
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Staff engaged on Housing work, with, briefly, the duties of each officerOne Housing Officer who is also Inspector.